



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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*86 Chambers Street, 3rd floor  
New York, New York 10007*

November 17, 2022

**BY ECF**

The Honorable Paul A. Engelmayer  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse  
40 Foley Square  
New York, New York 10007

Re: *Bonner v. Central Intelligence Agency*,  
No. 21 Civ. 10673 (PAE)

Dear Judge Engelmayer:

This Office represents defendant the Central Intelligence Agency ("CIA") in the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") matter. The parties' current deadline to submit a joint status report is tomorrow, Friday, November 18, 2022. (ECF No. 24). Respectfully, we write to request a two-week extension of that deadline, to Friday, December 2, 2022. This is the CIA's first request for an extension of this deadline, and plaintiff Raymond Bonner does not object to the request.

As the Court is aware from prior status reports, this matter concerns plaintiff's FOIA request for "[a]ny diary, notes, notebooks, writings or drawings created by Abu Zubaydah . . . between March 28, 2002 and the date of his transfer to the United States military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba." Processing the records that are potentially responsive to this request is exceptionally complex. Most of the records the CIA has identified are handwritten and appear to be in Arabic. In order to process these records, the CIA has been required to use linguists from other parts of the agency to review the records for responsiveness, assist with classification reviews in connection with assessing the potential applicability of FOIA exemption 1, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b), and assist with review for other potentially applicable FOIA exemptions. That has involved, among other things, translating the records into English for review by subject-matter experts, and then identifying the portions of the original handwritten Arabic records that correspond to the material deemed exempt.

The CIA made an initial, limited production of records that did not require translation on September 26, 2022. The parties' September 2022 status report (ECF No. 23) indicated that the agency intended to process a further tranche of handwritten material requiring translation by mid-November. Although the agency has made considerable progress in reviewing those records, it has encountered issues concerning translation and processing that has delayed any production.

The CIA is presently working to resolve those issues both for its initial production and its subsequent processing of records in this case. We respectfully request this extension to allow the agency to determine the best resolution, which in turn will allow the parties to provide a fuller picture of the status of the case, including the agency's anticipated timeframe for processing and production going forward.

We thank the Court for its consideration of this letter.

Respectfully submitted,


DAMIAN WILLIAMS  
United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

By: /s/ Christopher Connolly

SARAH S. NORMAND  
CHRISTOPHER CONNOLLY  
Assistant United States Attorneys  
86 Chambers Street, 3rd Floor  
New York, New York 10007  
Telephone: (212) 637-2709/2761  
Facsimile: (212) 637-2730  
sarah.normand@usdoj.gov  
christopher.connolly@usdoj.gov

cc: *Plaintiff's counsel* (by ECF)

Granted. SO ORDERED.

  
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PAUL A. ENGELMAYER  
United States District Judge  
November 18, 2022